

Capsule Summary
SM-602
The Hammett Tree
Park Hall Vicinity
Private

c. pre-1770s

The Hammett Tree, a 230 year old White Oak (*Quercus Alba*), is located approximately 0.2 miles south from the intersection of Maryland Route 5 and Park Hall Road (Maryland Route 289) near Park Hall, Maryland. Named after the current owners David and Mary Hammett, the Hammett Tree has been recognized in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service as a Historic Tree and in 1976 was named a Maryland Bicentennial Tree.

Currently on a 2.16 acre tract near a Cape Cod style dwelling constructed in 1946, the tree grows on property that was once part of several tracts named "New Port Grove," "Snow Hill," "Grove," and the "Park Hall Property." The tree predates the American Revolutionary War and was once associated with a nearby house that has since burned. The foundation of the house is difficult to see, but the old roadbed of Maryland Route 5 can still be discerned as can a nearby brick lined well. With the road passing just east of the tree, Mr. Hammett surmises that it would have proven a good place for travelers to water their horses and rest on the way to Point Lookout or Leonardtown. The tree is significant, therefore, as a long-standing symbol of Park Hall's past.

SM-602, Hammett Tree
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Rural Agrarian Intensification, 1680-1815

Historic Period Theme:

Cultural

Resource Type

Category:

Site

Historic Environment:

Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Shade Tree

Known Design Source:

None

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-602

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Hammett Tree

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 17949 Point Lookout Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Park Hall ☒ vicinity of congressional district 1

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM-59, G-7, P-65

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name David and Mary E. Hammett

street & number PO Box 12 telephone no.: 31

city, town Park Hall state and zip code Md 20667

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 18

street & number folio 122

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-602

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Hammett Tree is located approximately 0.2 miles south from the intersection of Maryland Route 5 and Park Hall Road (Maryland Route 289). The tree is situated approximately 40 yards from the west side of Maryland Route 5 on a 2.19 acre tract. It is situated to the rear of a one-and-a-half story, Cape-style dwelling constructed in 1946.

Named after the current owners, David and Mary Hammett, the Hammett tree is actually a White Oak (*Quercus Alba*). With an estimated age of approximately 230 years old, the tree is in healthy condition with little evidence of rot or disease. According to the owner, an old house used to be located just south of the tree. While a cursory investigation turned up no visual evidence for the dwelling's foundation, the old cut for Route 5 was readily recognizable. A slight depression in the ground marked where the old road cut immediately in front of the tree. Another circular depression near the old road marks the location of an old brick-lined well.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-602

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Hammett Tree, a 230 year old White Oak (*Quercus Alba*), is located approximately 0.2 miles south from the intersection of Maryland Route 5 and Park Hall Road (Maryland Route 289) near Park Hall, Maryland. Named after the current owners David and Mary Hammett, the Hammett Tree has been recognized in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service as a Historic Tree and in 1976 was named a Maryland Bicentennial Tree.

Currently on a 2.16 acre tract near a one-and-a-half story Cape Cod style dwelling constructed in 1946, the tree grows on property that was once part of several tracts named "New Port Grove," "Snow Hill," "Grove," and the "Park Hall Property." In the seventeenth century, the vicinity of Park Hall was known as "Gerrard's Freehold" and "Porke Hall." By the mid-nineteenth century, Park Hall had modestly grown into a crossroads community that featured a store as well as a granary and storehouse.

The tree, however, predates the American Revolutionary War and was once associated with a nearby house that has since burned. While it is difficult to see the foundation of the house, the old roadbed of Maryland Route 5 can still be discerned as can a nearby brick lined well. With the road passing just east of the tree, Mr. Hammett surmises that it would have proven a good place for travelers to water their horses and rest on the way to Point Lookout or Leonardtown. The tree is significant, therefore, as a long-standing symbol of Park Hall's past.

Survey No. SM-602

10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

H | | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

state Maryland

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600**

SM-602, The Hammett Tree

St. Mary's County

8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 18, Folio 122

Grantee: David and Mary E. Hammett

Grantor: Ernest L. and Dorethy E. Stone

Date: February 7, 1946

Notes: The property is called the "Park Hall Property," or "New Port Grove," "Part of Snow Hill," and "New Port" and contains 2.19 acres.

Reference: Liber CBG 12, Folio 343

Grantee: Ernest L. and Dorothy E. Stone

Grantor: Ignatius V. McKay, F., F. Donovan Bohanon, and Mary H. Lloyd Bohanon

Date: October 31, 1940

Notes: The property is listed as containing 132 2/3 acres.

Reference: Liber EBA 17, Folio 108

Grantee: Ignatius V. McKey

Grantor: William G. Bond

Date: April 29, 1918

Notes: William G. Bond transfers a life estate to the property to Ignatius V. McKay.

Reference: Liber EBA 17, Folio

Grantee: William G. Bond

Grantor: Ignatius V. McKey

Date: April 20, 1918

Reference: Liber JMM 6, Folio 94

Grantee: F. Donovan Bohanon, Mary H. Lloyd Bohanon, and Ignatius McKay

Grantor: William G. Bond

Date: ?

Reference: Liber JAC 6, Folio 261

Grantee: Laurel A. Bond

Grantor: Abell and Serena A. Sanner

Date: March 13, 1873

Reference: Liber JTB 2, Folio 180

Grantee: Abell Sanner

Grantor: Louis B. and Mary Sophia Peake and Benedict and Mary Derina Magill

Date: September 21, 1855

Notes: The deed notes the transfer of 1/2 of the tract known as "New Port Grove" and "Snow Hill."

— SM-602, The Hammett Tree
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber JTB 2, Folio 58-59

Grantee: Benedict Magill and Lewis B. Peake

Grantor: John A. Peake and Mary E. Peake

Date: February 28, 1855

Notes: The deed notes the transfer of "New Port" containing 72 acres, "Grove" containing 10 acres, "Snow Hill" 50 acres, and a 3/4 acre lot in all containing 132 3/4 acres.

Reference: Liber JTB 1, Folio 138

Grantee: John A. Peake

Grantor: Lewis B. and Mary S. Peake

Date: June 5, 1852

Notes: The deed notes the transfer of a 1/4 acre lot that contained a carriage shop and blacksmith shop for \$175.

Reference: Liber WTM 2, Folio 362

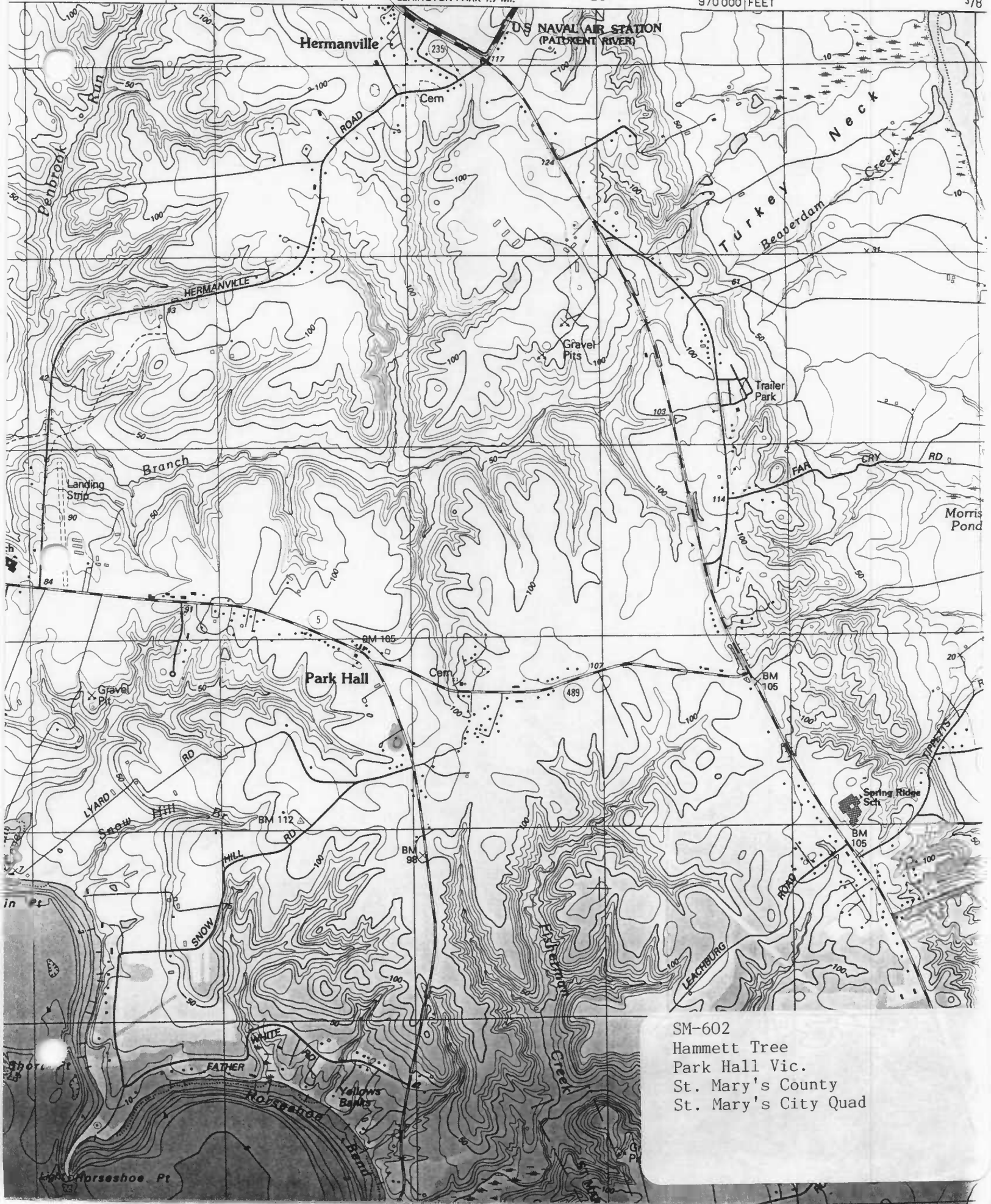
Grantee: John A. Peake

Grantor: Thomas Bennett

Date: March 4, 1851

Notes: The deed notes the transfer of the "Snow Hill Tract" and also explains how Thomas Bennett received the property. After John W. Bennett died, his wife Harriett A. Bennett inherited his estate. On February 22, 1851, she transferred the "Snow Hill Tract" to Thomas Bennett (See St. Mary's County Land Records Liber WTM 2, Folio 359).

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SM-602
Hammett Tree
Park Hall Vic.
St. Mary's County
St. Mary's City Quad



SM-103

Hammett Tree

St Mary's County

Kirk Barrett

Nov, 1997

Md SHPO

Looking S

1 of 1